

Notice of Allowability

Application No.

08/669,056

Applicant(s)

NACHMAN ET AL.

Examiner

Art Unit

Cheukfan Lee

2622

-- The MAILING DATE of this communication appears on the cover sheet with the correspondence address--

All claims being allowable, PROSECUTION ON THE MERITS IS (OR REMAINS) CLOSED in this application. If not included herewith (or previously mailed), a Notice of Allowance (PTOL-85) or other appropriate communication will be mailed in due course. **THIS NOTICE OF ALLOWABILITY IS NOT A GRANT OF PATENT RIGHTS.** This application is subject to withdrawal from issue at the initiative of the Office or upon petition by the applicant. See 37 CFR 1.313 and MPEP 1308.

1. ☒ This communication is responsive to an amendment filed Nov. 19, 2004.
2. ☒ The allowed claim(s) is/are 27, 29, 32-34, 36, 38-48, and 52-54, now renumbered 1-4, 6, 7-10, 5, and 11-20, respectively.
3. ☒ The drawings filed on 24 June 1996 are accepted by the Examiner.
4. ☐ Acknowledgment is made of a claim for foreign priority under 35 U.S.C. § 119(a)-(d) or (f).
 - a) ☐ All b) ☐ Some* c) ☐ None of the:
 1. ☐ Certified copies of the priority documents have been received.
 2. ☐ Certified copies of the priority documents have been received in Application No. _____.
 3. ☐ Copies of the certified copies of the priority documents have been received in this national stage application from the International Bureau (PCT Rule 17.2(a)).

* Certified copies not received: _____.

Applicant has THREE MONTHS FROM THE "MAILING DATE" of this communication to file a reply complying with the requirements noted below. Failure to timely comply will result in ABANDONMENT of this application.
THIS THREE-MONTH PERIOD IS NOT EXTENDABLE.

5. ☐ A SUBSTITUTE OATH OR DECLARATION must be submitted. Note the attached EXAMINER'S AMENDMENT or NOTICE OF INFORMAL PATENT APPLICATION (PTO-152) which gives reason(s) why the oath or declaration is deficient.
6. ☐ CORRECTED DRAWINGS (as "replacement sheets") must be submitted.
 - (a) ☐ including changes required by the Notice of Draftsperson's Patent Drawing Review (PTO-948) attached
 - 1) ☐ hereto or 2) ☐ to Paper No./Mail Date _____.
 - (b) ☐ including changes required by the attached Examiner's Amendment / Comment or in the Office action of Paper No./Mail Date _____.

Identifying indicia such as the application number (see 37 CFR 1.84(c)) should be written on the drawings in the front (not the back) of each sheet. Replacement sheet(s) should be labeled as such in the header according to 37 CFR 1.121(d).
7. ☐ DEPOSIT OF and/or INFORMATION about the deposit of BIOLOGICAL MATERIAL must be submitted. Note the attached Examiner's comment regarding REQUIREMENT FOR THE DEPOSIT OF BIOLOGICAL MATERIAL.

Attachment(s)

1. ☐ Notice of References Cited (PTO-892)
2. ☐ Notice of Draftsperson's Patent Drawing Review (PTO-948)
3. ☐ Information Disclosure Statements (PTO-1449 or PTO/SB/08),
Paper No./Mail Date _____
4. ☐ Examiner's Comment Regarding Requirement for Deposit
of Biological Material
5. ☐ Notice of Informal Patent Application (PTO-152)
6. ☒ Interview Summary (PTO-413),
Paper No./Mail Date _____
7. ☒ Examiner's Amendment/Comment
8. ☒ Examiner's Statement of Reasons for Allowance
9. ☐ Other _____

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1. All pending claims 27, 29, 32, 33, 34, 36, 38, 39, 40, 41, 42, 43, 44, 45, 46, 47, 48, 52, 53, and 54 are allowed. Claims 27, 34, 36, 43, 52, 53, and 54 are independent.

2. An examiner's amendment to the record appears below. Should the changes and/or additions be unacceptable to applicant, an amendment may be filed as provided by 37 CFR 1.312. To ensure consideration of such an amendment, it MUST be submitted no later than the payment of the issue fee.

Authorization for this examiner's amendment was given in a telephone interview with Mr. Marvin Nachman on Dec. 28, 2004. Mr. Nachman agreed to change the status of the claims from "previously amended" to "previously presented", as required by the letter sent by Art Unit 2622 Legal Instruments Examiner Kenneth Davis, Notice of Non-Compliant (37 CFR 1.121), in order to place the amendment in proper format for entering and thus the claims in condition for allowance.

The Examiner has been advised by Ms. Stacy Kemper to do the examiner's amendment, i.e., to change from "previously amended" to "previously presented".

3. **Please amend the claims.** The only changes to be made are changes of the word "amended" within the parentheses to "presented". However, all claims and claim numbers and their status are presented below for the purpose of entering the whole amendment.

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Claims 1-26 (cancelled).

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Claim 27 (previously presented). A method of creating a scanning capability from a facsimile machine to a computer, with scanned image digital data signals transmitted through a bi-directional connection via a passive link between the facsimile machine and the computer, comprising the steps of:

by-passing or isolating the facsimile machine and the computer from the public network telephone line;

coupling the facsimile machine to the computer;

conditioning the computer to receive digital facsimile signals representing data on a scanned document; and

conditioning the facsimile machine to transmit digital signals representing data on a scanned document to the computer, said computer being equipped with send/receive driver communications software enabling the reception of scanned image signals from the facsimile machine, said transmitted digital facsimile signals being received directly into the computer through the bi-directional direct connection via the passive link, thereafter, said computer processing the received digital facsimile signals of the scanned document as needed.

Claim 28 (cancelled).

Claim 29 (previously presented). The method of claim 27 to create a scanning capability through a bi-directional direct connection via a passive link between a facsimile machine and a computer by transfer of scanned image data signals from the

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facsimile machine through said connection, said facsimile machine by-passing or isolated from the public network telephone line, and connected to an appropriate receiving port of a computer or other office product capable of receiving and processing said signals.

Claims 30 and 31 (cancelled).

Claim 32 (previously presented). The method of claim 27, including transferring a parallel data source signal of a scanned image from said facsimile machine to said computer.

Claim 33 (previously presented). The method of claim 27, including transferring a digital serial data source signal of a scanned image from said facsimile machine to said computer.

Claim 34 (previously presented). A method of creating a scanning capability from a facsimile machine to a computer equipped with a modem, with scanned image data signals transferred through a bi-directional direct connection via a passive link between the facsimile machine and the computer, comprising the steps of:

by-passing or isolating the facsimile machine and the computer from the public network telephone line;

coupling the facsimile to the computer;

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conditioning the computer to receive facsimile signals representing data on a scanned document; and

conditioning the facsimile machine to transmit signals representing data on a scanned document to the computer, said computer being equipped with send/receive driver communications software enabling the reception of scanned image signals from the facsimile machine, said transmitted facsimile signals being received through the bi-directional direct connection via the passive link to the computer modem, thereafter, said computer processing the received facsimile signals of the scanned document as needed.

Claim 35 (cancelled).

Claim 36 (previously presented). A method of making a facsimile machine operable as a scanner and printer for a personal computer, by transferring digital data through a bi-directional direct connection via a passive link between the facsimile machine and the computer, each of the facsimile machine and personal computer for communicating normally using at least one public network telephone line, comprising the steps of:

configuring the facsimile machine to communicate with the personal computer using a digital connector port of the facsimile machine and personal computer, with both the facsimile machine and personal computer isolated from said at least one public network telephone line;

arranging the facsimile machine to be in a digital connection mode; and

shifting the personal computer to a connected mode for sending or receiving digital signals through the bi-directional direct connection via the passive link for scanning and printing between the computer and the facsimile machine, in a facsimile format, using the digital connector port of the personal computer, said computer being equipped with send/receive driver communications software enabling the transfer of the scanning and printing signals between the computer and the facsimile machine.

Claim 37 (cancelled).

Claim 38 (original). The method of claim 36 including using RS 232 connector ports to interface between the facsimile machine and the personal computer.

Claim 39 (original). The method of claim 36 including using parallel connector ports to interface between the facsimile machine and the personal computer.

Claim 40 (previously presented). The method of claim 36, using RS 232, parallel or other suitable digital port type connectors to interface between said facsimile machine and said computer.

Claim 41 (previously presented). The method of claim 27 further comprising optically recognizing the scanned data within the computer and converting the scanned data into

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character codes within the computer, said computer being equipped with Optical Character Recognition Software.

Claim 42 (previously presented). The method of claim 36 further comprising optically recognizing the scanned data within the computer and converting the scanned data into character codes within the computer, said computer being equipped with Optical Character Recognition Software.

Claim 43 (previously presented). A method of using a facsimile machine as a scanner and printer by transferring data signals through a bi-directional direct connection via a passive link between the facsimile machine and the personal computer, each of the facsimile machine and personal computer for communicating using telephone types of circuits, said facsimile machine and computer being isolated from the public telephone network, comprising the steps of:

(a) configuring the facsimile machine to communicate with the personal computer using the facsimile machine, and by-passing or isolating the facsimile machine and computer from the public telephone network;

(b) arranging the facsimile machine to be in a simulated off-hook condition, or connection mode; and

(c) shifting the personal computer to an off-hook condition, or connection mode for sending or receiving signals in facsimile formats through the bi-directional direct

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connection via the passive link between the personal computer and the facsimile machine;

said computer being equipped with send/receive driver communications software enabling the transfer of the scanning and printing signals between the computer and the facsimile machine.

Claim 44 (previously presented). The method of claim 43 including using serial data transmissions for both scanning and printing through the bi-directional direct connection via the passive link between the facsimile machine and the personal computer.

Claim 45 (previously presented). The method of claim 43 including using parallel data transmissions for both scanning and printing through the bi-directional direct connection via the passive link between the facsimile machine and the personal computer.

Claim 46 (previously presented). The method of claim 43 including using analog data transmissions for both scanning and printing through the bi-directional direct connection via the passive link between the facsimile machine and the personal computer.

Claim 47 (previously presented). The method of claim 43 using analog or digital serial, parallel data transmissions, for both scanning and printing through the bi-directional direct connection via the passive link, between the facsimile machine and the personal computer.

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Claim 48 (previously presented). The method of claim 43 further comprising optically recognizing the scanned data within the computer and converting the scanned data into character codes within the computer, said computer being equipped with Optical Character Recognition Software.

Claims 49-51 (cancelled).

Claim 52 (previously presented). A method of using a facsimile machine with a computer, one or both of which being connected to a telephone line such that said facsimile machine operates as a scanning and printing device for the computer when isolated from the telephone line comprising the steps of:

- (a) coupling the facsimile machine to the computer through a bi-directional direct connection via a passive link;

- (b) generating a signal to simulate an off-hook condition or connection mode providing a direct path whereby the facsimile machine is conditioned to transmit or receive signals through the bi-directional direction via the passive link to the computer;

- (c) generating a facsimile machine signal whereby the computer is conditioned to receive signals representing data on a scanned document; and

- (d) generating a computer signal whereby the facsimile machine is conditioned to receive signals representing data on a document to be printed;

said computer being equipped with send/receive driver communications software enabling the reception of scanned image signals from the facsimile machine or the sending of computer data to the facsimile machine for printing.

Claim 53 (previously presented). A method of using a facsimile machine with a computer, one or both of which being connected to a telephone line such that said facsimile machine operates as a printing device for the computer when isolated from the telephone line, comprising the steps of:

(a) coupling the facsimile machine to the computer through a bi-directional direct connection via a passive link, which enables transfer of digital image signals in both directions;

(b) generating a signal representative of a facsimile machine communications signals, whereby the computer is conditioned to transmit signals representing data on a document to be printed; and

(c) generating a signal to simulate an off-hook condition or connection mode providing a direct path whereby the facsimile machine is conditioned to receive signals through the bi-directional direct connection via the passive link representing data from the computer of a document to be printed.

Claim 54 (previously presented). A method of making a facsimile machine operable as a scanner and printer for a computer, each of the facsimile machine and computer

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for communicating normally using at least one public network telephone line, comprising the steps of:

(a) configuring the facsimile machine to communicate with the personal computer through a bi-directional direct connection via a passive link between a digital connector port on the facsimile machine and a digital connector port on the computer, with both the facsimile machine and computer by-passing or isolated from said at least one public network telephone line;

(b) arranging the facsimile machine to send or receive digital data signals; and

(c) coupling the digital data signals through the bi-directional direct connection via the passive link between the personal computer and the facsimile machine;

said computer being equipped with send/receive driver communications software enabling the reception of scanned image signals from the facsimile machine or the sending of computer data to the facsimile machine for printing.

Claim 55 (cancelled).

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4. The following is an examiner's statement of reasons for allowance:

Claims 27-29, 32, 33, 34, 36, 38, 39, 40, 41, 42, 43, 44, 45, 46, 47, 48, 52, 53, and 54 are allowable over the prior art of record.

Claims 34, 43-46, 48, and 52 have been indicated allowed in the previous Office action dated July 23, 2004. Reasons for allowance were given in that previous Office action and will be modified and repeated below in this Office action.

The present application is a continuation-in-part (CIP) of patent application serial number 08/226,278 filed April 11, 1994. The examiner agrees with Applicant on that the parent application 08/226,278 has adequate support for claims 27, 29, 32, 33, 36, 38, 39, 40, 41, 42, 47, 53, and 54, in addition to claims 34, 43-46, 48, and 52 indicated allowable in the previous Office action, the adequate support of parent application including the inherent features discussed in Applicant's remarks/arguments filed Nov. 19, 2004. Please refer to the remarks starting from **Applicant's response** on page 10 to page 17.

The closest art reference Schlank et al. (U.S. Patent No. 6,134,017), applied in the rejection in the previous Office action, has an effective filing date Nov. 14, 1994, which is later than the filing date April 11, 1994 of the parent applicant 08/226,278.

Because of the above, the rejection of claims 27, 29, 32, 33, 36, 38, 39, 40, 41, 42, 47, 53, and 54 are withdrawn.

Any comments considered necessary by applicant must be submitted no later than the payment of the issue fee and, to avoid processing delays, should preferably accompany the issue fee. Such submissions should be clearly labeled "Comments on Statement of Reasons for Allowance."


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5. Any inquiry concerning this communication or earlier communications from the examiner should be directed to Cheukfan Lee whose telephone number is (703) 305-4867. The examiner can normally be reached on 9:30 a.m. to 6:00 p.m., Mon-Fri.

If attempts to reach the examiner by telephone are unsuccessful, the examiner's supervisor, Edward L. Coles can be reached on (703) 305-4712. The fax phone number for the organization where this application or proceeding is assigned is 703-872-9306.

Information regarding the status of an application may be obtained from the Patent Application Information Retrieval (PAIR) system. Status information for published applications may be obtained from either Private PAIR or Public PAIR. Status information for unpublished applications is available through Private PAIR only. For more information about the PAIR system, see <http://pair-direct.uspto.gov>. Should you have questions on access to the Private PAIR system, contact the Electronic Business Center (EBC) at 866-217-9197 (toll-free).

Cheukfan Lee
Dec. 29, 2004



Cheukfan Lee